



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District of Arizona*

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SELLS MAN SENTENCED IN TUCSON FOR PUNCHING 19-MONTH-OLD SON CAUSING SKULL FRACTURE

TUCSON, Ariz.— Tyrone Ace Johnson, 22, of Sells, Ariz. was sentenced here on Wednesday, August 9, 2006, by U.S. District Judge John M. Roll to 41 months in prison to be followed by three (3) years of supervised release. Johnson pleaded guilty October 25, 2004, to Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury.

On August 18, 2002, the mother of a 19-month-old baby boy came home to find her baby's head swollen. Three days later, she took him to a medical clinic in Sells, Arizona, where x-rays showed a linear skull fracture to the child's head. As a result of the medical findings, medical personnel contacted law enforcement authorities. The child was transported to Tucson Medical Center where tests showed no evidence of life-threatening head trauma. The child was discharged two (2) days later in stable condition. The investigation indicated that the child's father, Tyrone Ace Johnson, had been caring for the child while the child's mother was out of the house. Agents interviewed Johnson and learned that while the baby's mother was gone, he was taking care of the child in his home. The child was upset that his mother was away and cried incessantly for 15 minutes. After making several attempts to quiet him, Johnson admitted that he became irrate at the child and punched him with a closed fist on the left side of the child's head. He further stated that he became concerned for the child when the child quieted down and appeared sleepy. He admitted that he felt badly for what he had done and stated that he needs help to control his temper. Both Johnson and the infant are registered tribal members of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the Tohono O'odham Police Department. The prosecution was handled by David P. Flannigan, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-00743-TUC-JMR
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